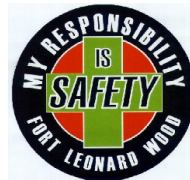




Fatality Alert 05-15

POV Fatality on FLW



08 August 2005

Early on 06 August, a 50th Engineer Company Soldier was killed in a POV accident that occurred on Pulaski Avenue nearest Williams School, here on Fort Leonard Wood. The Soldier's vehicle was traveling west and struck a guardrail, resulting in fatal injuries. He left behind a wife and a young daughter. His life has been forever ended. Their lives have forever been harmed.

The accident is still under investigation and all potential factors have not yet been identified. However, one thing we do know is that this young Soldier did not get into his car expecting to be killed or even to be in an accident. Accidents come when we least expect them and usually happen suddenly. POV accidents can easily be serious or even fatal. We do not need to wait for a full report on this accident to be reminded by it that operating a motor vehicle is dangerous. Now is a good time to review our own motor vehicle operations, to ensure that we are doing all that we can to prevent future such accidents.

To prevent POV accidents, all personnel must diligently follow the basic rules for safe driving, to avoid being harmed by the Big 5 of POV accident/injury causes:

SPEED: Don't drive too fast for road and environmental conditions. Adjust for unfamiliar roads, darkness, slippery conditions, and other factors.

ALCOHOL: Don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver, call a cab, simply don't go anywhere, or just don't drink.

DROWSINESS: Don't drive when drowsy. If a driver nods off for even 1 second, while traveling at 60 MPH, the vehicle will travel 88 feet in that one second, plenty of distance to hit another vehicle or leave the road.

INATTENTION: Don't allow your attention to be distracted from your driving. It only takes a momentary distraction to result in a serious accident. Be sure to watch out for others, often times they can be just as dangerous. You cannot control other drivers, but you sometimes can avoid being harmed by their actions.

SEATBELTS: Always make sure you and your passengers are wearing seatbelts. In an accident, more likely than not, the person not wearing their seatbelt can suffer serious possibly fatal injuries.

In addition, if operating a **MOTORCYCLE:** Be sure you have completed a motorcycle safety course and are wearing all required safety clothing and equipment. Motorcycle accidents have much more potential to be serious or fatal than do accidents involving other vehicles. Be especially careful to follow the rules for safe operation and remember that you are sometimes invisible, not invincible.

MANSCEN SAFETY OFFICE